1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	Chengannur-Mavelikara (12.3 km)	2003-04	33.65	4.64	10	Earthwork and minor bridges near completion. The section is targeted for completion during 2007-08
5	Mavelikara-Kayankulam (7.89 km)	2003-04	26.81	9.95	10	Earthwork and bridge works are in progress. On this section, local people are not allowing the work to proceed due to closure of one level crossing. This section has been planned for completion druing 2006-07.

The section from Kuruppantara to Chingavanam (27 Kms) is not yet sanctioned.

(d) Delay in land acquisition, failure of contractors due to steep hike in prices of steel, obstruction from local people due to closure of one of the level crossings at Mavelikara and restriction/protests against earth and sand quarries in Alleppey districts have been the reasons for prolongation of the works.

MSP of Bajra and other agri-products in Rajasthan

*60. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering an increase in MSP of bajra and other agri-products in Rajasthan; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of kharif crops of 2006-07 season, including bajra on 27th July, 2006. The MSP of other agri-products of Rabi-2006-07 season have also been fixed on 27th & 30th October, 2006. The MSP so fixed are uniform for all the states including Rajasthan. In view of this, currently there is no other proposal under consideration to revise the prices of bajra and other products.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Reducing cost of Sunflower seeds

244. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sunflower seeds producing companies are selling their products at Rs. 500 to 600 per 2 kg. packets based on their brand names;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of producing the seeds and profit margins enjoyed by the manufacturers;

(c) the methodology adopted for fixing prices and the authority which is fixing prices of all hybrid variety seeds; and

(d) whether there is any proposal by Government to reduce the cost of sunflower seeds and other hybrid seeds to mitigate the problems of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The sale price of public bred Sunflower hybrid seeds ranges from Rs. 110 to 210 per kg. Main suppliers in public sector are National Seeds Corporation and Maharashtra and Karnataka State Seed Corporations. Private Sector Companies are selling Sunflower hybrid seeds at prices ranging between Rs. 290 to 300 per kg. The approximate cost of producing hybrid sunflower seed is Rs. 80 to 100 per kg. The sale price of hybrid seeds is determined by many factors like cost involved in production, processing, treatment, packing, handling, transportation, storage, quality of seeds, availability and demand of seeds. To mitigate the problems of farmers Government provides seed distribution subsidy @ Rs. 25 per kg. for hybrid Rice Seed, Rs. 10 per kg. for hybrid Jowar and hybrid Bajra Seed, Rs. 8 per kg. for hybrid Maize Seed and hybid